

to determine their long-term effects on the well-being of patients, the community and employees.

The Patient Safety Act of 1998 is a valuable information resource for consumers. This legislation will ensure that the public has the data necessary to make informed decisions about their health care providers.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2056. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act and title 38, United States Code, to require hospitals to use only hollow-bore needle devices that minimize the risk of needlestick injury to health care workers; to the Committee on Finance.

THE HEALTH CARE WORKER PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Health Care Worker Protection Act of 1998. This legislation would reduce the number of health care workers who are accidentally exposed to potentially contaminated, infectious blood via a needle stick injury.

The Health Care Worker Protection Act of 1998 would make the use of safe needle devices, as determined by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), a condition of participation for Medicare. The bill would call for the FDA to create an Advisory Council to establish safety standards for hollow bore devices. The Advisory Council would be composed of consumers, health care providers and technical experts. Finally, the Department of Health and Human Services would be authorized \$5 million to establish education and training programs for the use of the safe devices identified by the FDA.

Approximately eighty percent of all reported occupational exposures result from needle stick injuries, making this the most common cause of health care worker-related exposure to blood borne pathogens. More than twenty pathogens can be transmitted through small amounts of blood including HIV, syphilis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, varicella-zoster, malaria, Hepatitis B and C, along with other forms of hepatitis. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American health care workers report more than 800,000 needle sticks and sharps injuries each year.

The Health Worker Protection Act of 1998 is designed to reduce the risks to health care workers from these accidents. This legislation will ensure that the necessary tools—better information and better medical devices—are made available to front-line health care workers in order to reduce the injury and death that have resulted from needle sticks.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 554

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. HOLLINGS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 554, a bill to inform and empower consumers in the United

States through a voluntary labeling system for wearing apparel or sporting goods made without abusive and exploitative child labor, and for other purposes.

S. 897

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Maine [Ms. SNOWE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 897, a bill to make permanent certain authority relating to self-employment assistance programs.

S. 1525

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1525, a bill to provide financial assistance for higher education to the dependents of Federal, State, and local public safety officers who are killed or permanently and totally disabled as the result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty.

S. 2010

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE], and the Senator from Minnesota [Mr. WELLSTONE] were added as cosponsors of S. 2010, a bill to provide for business development and trade promotion for Native Americans, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 88

At the request of Mr. ASHCROFT, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. REED], and the Senator from Montana [Mr. BAUCUS] were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 88, a concurrent resolution calling on Japan to establish and maintain an open, competitive market for consumer photographic film and paper and other sectors facing market access barriers in Japan.

SENATE RESOLUTION 216

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the names of the Senator from Louisiana [Mr. BREAUX], the Senator from Maine [Ms. COLLINS], the Senator from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN], the Senator from California [Mrs. FEINSTEIN], the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. KERREY], and the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 216, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Japan's difficult economic condition.

SENATE RESOLUTION 226—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES AT THE 50TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. KERRY, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. GORTON, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. CHAFEE, and Mr. TORRICELLI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 226

Whereas whales have very low reproductive rates, making whale populations extremely

vulnerable to pressure from commercial whaling;

Whereas whales migrate throughout the world's oceans and international cooperation is required to successfully conserve and protect whale stocks;

Whereas in 1946 the nations of the world adopted the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, which established the International Whaling Commission to provide for the proper conservation of the whale stocks;

Whereas the Commission adopted a moratorium on commercial whaling in 1982 in order to conserve and promote the recovery of the whale stocks;

Whereas the Commission has designated the Indian Ocean and the ocean waters around Antarctica as whale sanctuaries to further enhance the recovery of whale stocks;

Whereas many nations of the world have designated waters under their jurisdiction as whale sanctuaries where commercial whaling is prohibited, and additional regional whale sanctuaries have been proposed by nations that are members of the Commission;

Whereas 2 member nations of the Commission have taken reservations to the Commission moratorium on commercial whaling and 1 has recently resumed commercial whaling operations in spite of the moratorium and the protests of other nations;

Whereas another member nation of the Commission has taken a reservation to the Commission's Southern Ocean Sanctuary and continues to conduct lethal scientific whaling in the waters of that sanctuary;

Whereas the Commission's Scientific Committee has repeatedly expressed serious concerns about the scientific need for such lethal whaling;

Whereas the lethal take of whales under reservations to the Commission's policies have been increasing annually;

Whereas there continue to be indications that whale meat is being traded on the international market despite a ban on such trade under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and that meat may be originating in one of the member nations of the Commission;

Whereas 1998 is the International Year of the Ocean and the Commission plays a leading role in global efforts to improve the state of the world's oceans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) at the 50th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Oman the United States should—

(A) remain firmly opposed to commercial whaling;

(B) initiate and support efforts to ensure that all activities conducted under reservations to the Commission's moratorium or sanctuaries are ceased;

(C) oppose the lethal taking of whales for scientific purposes unless such lethal taking is specifically authorized by the Scientific Committee of the Commission;

(D) seek the Commission's support for specific efforts by member nations to end illegal trade in whale meat; and

(E) support the permanent protection of whale populations through the establishment of whale sanctuaries in which commercial whaling is prohibited; and

(2) make full use of all appropriate diplomatic mechanisms, relevant international laws and agreements, and other appropriate mechanisms to implement the goals set forth in paragraph (1).